

Message Text

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TAGS
SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - JULY 16-22, 1976

1. PSYCHOLOGICAL

"IF YOU WANT A JOB DONE WELL. . ." --WHEN 16 FOREIGN
AND 24 LOCAL NEWSMEN, WHO WERE IN MANILA ATTENDING A JOURNALISM
SEMINAR, THIS WEEK PAID A COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT MARCOS
THEY WERE SURPRISED TO FIND THEMSELVES ENGAGED IN AN HOUR-LONG
IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE. IT WAS ONLY THE SECOND
TIME MARCOS HAD FACED THE FOREIGN PRESS EN MASSE SINCE
DECLARING MARTIAL LAW IN SEPTEMBER 1972. THE OTHER OCCASION
WAS ON MARCH 1, 1975, WHEN AT THE CONCLUSION OF A TELEVISED
CABINET MEETING HE ANNOUNCED TO SOME 30 LOCAL AND FOREIGN
CORRESPONDENTS THAT HE WAS LIFTING PRESS RESTRICTIONS ON
COVERING THE FIGHTING IN THE SOUTH.

NOT SURPRISINGLY, MANY OF THE 1975 QUESTIONS WERE REPEATED
THIS WEEK, INCLUDING THOSE ON POLITICAL DETAINEES, CONVENING OF
THE INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND U.S. MILITARY BASES NEGOTIA-
TIONS. ON MOST POINTS, THE PRESIDENT TRIED TO APPEAR REASONABLE
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AND FORTHCOMING, ALTHOUGH SETTING FEW ACTION TIMETABLES...

THE LID WOULD BE LIFTED "WHEN THE PEOPLE WANTED IT."

IF THE JOURNALISTS WONDERED WHY THE PRESIDENT USED THEIR VISIT TO UNBURDEN HIMSELF ON THESE STICKY ISSUES, ONE CLUE WAS PROVIDED BY A TWO-LINE ITEM IN A RECENT TEODORO VALENCIA COLUMN ANNOUNCING MASS LAYOFFS AT THE NATIONAL MEDIA PRODUCTION CENTER (NMPC), THE ARM OF THE MALACANANG PROPAGANDA APPARATUS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE TO THE FIRST LADY.

BEHIND THAT ITEM LAY THE FACT THAT THE NMPC SHOT ITS ENTIRE 40 MILLION PESO BUDGET IN THE FIRST SEMESTER OF THE FISCAL YEAR FRANTICALLY DESPATCHING FILM CREWS AND NEWS REPORTERS IN THE COLORFUL WAKE OF THE FIRST LADY ON HER FOREIGN TRAVELS.

CONSIDERING THE POOR CALIBER OF THE RESULTING NMPC COVERAGE AND THE FURTHER FACT THAT HER TRIPS TO ROME, PARIS AND LONDON COULD NOT EVEN BE REPORTED BACK HOME BECAUSE SHE LEFT WHILE THE COUNTRY WAS IN THE MIDST OF A FLOOD CALAMITY, THE NMPC BUDGET WAS HARDLY WELL SPENT.

THE PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY ALSO IS PEEVED BECAUSE THE NMPC IS NOT GETTING ITS RADIO BROADCASTS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE AND CLANDESTINE AND CATHOLIC RADIO STATIONS (WHICH THE BROADCAST MEDIA COUNCIL IS SUPPOSED TO CONTROL, AND THE NMPC TO OVERPOWER WITH ITS OWN BROADCASTS) CONTINUE TO BROADCAST ANTI-GOVERNMENT MATERIAL.

THE PRESIDENT HAS LIKEWISE LONG BEEN UNEASY ABOUT HIS GOVERNMENT'S IMAGE ABROAD. A THICK REPORT HANDED HIM LAST WEEK BY FORMER IFUGAO GOVERNOR GUALBERTO LUMAU LG (WHO IS INCIDENTALLY RUMORED TO BE AFTER SECRETARY OF INFORMATION "KIT" TATAD'S JOB) SUPPOSEDLY CONFIRMED HIS FEARS THAT PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA EFFORTS IN THE U.S. AND CANADA HAVE BEEN PRACTICALLY USELESS.

THUS IT WAS THAT AMBASSADOR "KOKOY" ROMUALDEZ, MRS. MARCOS' BROTHER AND PALACE TROUBLE-SHOOTER, WAS SENT TO SAN FRANCISCO THIS WEEK REPORTEDLY TO TRY TO COORDINATE THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPAGANDA EFFORTS IN THE U.S.

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GIVEN THOSE DEPRESSING CIRCUMSTANCES IT'S NO WONDER THE PRESIDENT DECIDED ON A DO-IT-YOURSELF PROPAGANDA EXERCISE.
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II. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

1. URBANOLOGIST HANCOCK MAKES IMPACT ---VOLSPKR URBANOLOGIST/
CITY PLANNER JOHN HANCOCK TOOK PART IN FOUR FORMAL AND TWO IN-
FORMAL PROGRAMS THIS WEEK. THE FIRST, AT TJCC, INVOLVED 50
URBAN REGIONAL PLANNERS, REPRESENTING BOTH THE PRIVATE AND
GOVERNMENT SECTORS, FROM
THE UP INSTITUTE OF URBAN PLANNING. HANCOCK STRESSED THE ADVAN-
TAGES OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION. SURPRISINGLY THE PARTICIPANTS
NOTED THAT, WHILE PREACHED, IT WAS NOT PRACTICED HERE AND
NOTED THAT MANY OF THE U.S. APPROACHES OUTLINED BY HANCOCK WERE
VALID FOR THE PHILIPPINES. THE SECOND, A SLIDE LECTURE ALSO AT
TJCC, INVOLVED NINE MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION TEAM
OF THE FIRST LADY'S PROJECT ON DATA ACQUISITION AND TASK FORCE
ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. THIS SMALL GROUP WAS CONDUCIVE TO WIDE-
RANGING PARTICIPATION. THIS SESSION LED TO AN IMPROMPTU INVITA-
TION TO THE TASK FORCE OFFICE AND SUBSEQUENT TOUR OF THE TONDO
RESETTLEMENT PROJECT, FOLLOWED BY A FREE DISCUSSION SESSION
WITH 15 CITY PLANNERS COVERING 5 HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROJECTS AND
SQUATTER PROBLEMS IN THE PHILIPPINES. IN DAVAO HANCOCK HELD A
FREE-WHEELING DISCUSSION WITH LOCAL ROTARIANS ABOUT URBAN PLANNERS
WHO WERE INSENSITIVE TO CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AS WELL AS HIS
REGULAR PROGRAM WITH STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS OF CITY PLANNING.

2. AMSPEC PETER JONES AT USIS CEBU.---AMERICAN SPECIALIST
PETER JONES, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS,
GAVE A LECTURE ON CULTURAL PLURALISM IN AMERICA AT THE LINCOLN
CULTURAL
CENTER OF USIS CEBU ON SATURDAY, JULY 17, 1976. DESPITE THE
FACT THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS (THE LEADING UNIVERSITY
IN CEBU) WAS HOLDING A TWO-DAY SEMINAR FOR CEBUANO HISTORIANS
AT THE SAME TIME, APPROXIMATELY 75 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE PROGRAM,
INCLUDING HISTORIANS,
SOCIOLOGISTS, DEC AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND ADVANCED STUDENTS.
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PROFESSOR JONES SPOKE FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR ON PLURALISM
IN AMERICA AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY OVER 50 MILLION IMMI-
GRANTS. HIS TALK WAS WELL-RECEIVED AND PROVOKED A DISCUSSION
WHICH LASTED ANOTHER HOUR. JONES' TOPIC WAS RELEANT TO OUR
OBJECTIVES, PARTICULARLY IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR. AS AN
IMMIGRANT HIMSELF, HIS LECTURE WAS ALL THE MORE CREDIBLE.
JONES OTHER THREE PROGRAMS IN MANILA AND DAVAO WENT OVER EQUALLY
WELL. HE SHOULD DEFINITELY BE PROGRAMMED AGAIN.
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